

The Voice

Algona High School

Edited by: Megan Simonson and Katelyn Seely

March 11, 2010

Getting prepped for Superstars

Zach Plathe

Superstars will be held March 18th and the students are getting excited. Last year the senior class came out on top and they are looking to make it two years in a row.

As you know, the freshmen will be wearing white, sophomores blue, juniors red, and seniors black. Freshmen and sophomores had the most participating last year with 66% of their class showing up. The juniors had 65% and last year's seniors had 59%. Last year the juniors (now seniors) dominated dodgeball, which is likely to happen again with the hardest competition from last year's events leaving

last year. However, some underclassmen have different views on the topic. The final score of last year had the juniors winning, then seniors, followed by sophomores and freshmen.

This year should be an intense year of Superstars and the students can't wait to battle it out. The 2010 Superstars theme is "Go For The Gold." It starts at 3:45 p.m. with the opening ceremonies. Then, at 4:00, competition begins with dodgeball. Everything will be wrapping up around 7:45 with the class placings. Everyone get pumped for Superstars, it is just around the corner!

Go for the Gold

3:45 Opening Ceremonies
4:00 Dodgeball & Quiz Bowl
4:45 Arm Wrestling, Texas Hold 'em, Cornhole Game, Putting, Steal the Bacon, 3 on 3
5:15 Team Ski Walk, Human Ladder, Weird Shuttle Relay, NBA Shootout, Chipping
5:45 Team Dancing
6:00 Talent Show
6:30 Batty Relay, Tire Bridge, Swamp Machine, Musical Chairs
7:00 Limbo & Lightning
7:15 Tug of War

Superstars

"Seniors will stop at nothing to take home GOLD,"

Nolyn Elliott

"Back to back,"

David Baxter

"It's going to be awesome," Dylan Cink

"3 time 3 on 3 basketball champs,"

Ryan McMahon

"It's going to be a wonderful time,"

Emily Prilipp

"I'm very excited. We better win,"

Hannah Kadow

"Seniors are bringing home the Gold,"

Elsbecker

"Intimidation is a key factor for the seniors,"

Clay Collison

"Ready to lose,"

Nick Taffe

"Juniors are taking home the Gold,"

John Etler

"Senior domination,"

Sherri Zeller

"Sophomore domination,"

Jeni Zeller

"We need wrestling in Superstars,"

Eric Tull

"They should bring back high kick,"

Richie Baxter

District FFA

Kyle Walker

The Algona FFA Chapter participated in the District FFA Conference at Forest City on Saturday, March 6. They had six entries in the Leadership Development Events that had advanced from the sub-District contest.

Silvers were awarded to Taylor Prothman in Agricultural Broadcasting and Abby Smith in FFA Creed Speaking. Bronzes were awarded to Karl Nicolaus in Agricultural Sales; Nathan Skallerup in Extemporaneous Public Speaking; Justin Berte, Heather Ziesman, Brandi Goodman, Jacob Kofoot, Michael VanOosbree, Ben

Wilson, and Brandon Pearson in Conduct of Meetings; and to Andrew Skallerup, Ryann Pearson, Meridith Heinold, Tyler Laubenthal, and A.J. Wagner in Parliamentary Procedure. Ean Weber and Karl Nicolaus served as the chapter delegates at the business session. Ryann Pearson says, "It was a blast and I tried my best."

The top two participants in Districts make it to the State FFA Conference. None of the participants from Algona made it to the State FFA Conference. The State FFA Conference is scheduled for April 15 & 16th in Des Moines.

NHS & Honors

Banquet

Hannah Kadow

The National Honor Society is having its annual banquet. It is the induction of the new members. They are planning to have a guest speaker at the banquet and a meal will be served. The theme is "Lei into your future," a Hawaiian theme.

To get into NHS, students had to turn in a paper application, show excellence in academics, character, service, and leadership, have at least a 3.4 GPA, 35 hours of community service, and you can't ever be kicked out of school. Along with the paper application, students had to turn in two

letters of recommendation. Chad Rutledge and Christi Johnson are emcees for the night. "NHS is a very prestigious and honorable award and we feel very proud to represent this chapter of NHS," said Chad Rutledge and Nicole Person.

The Academic Honors Banquet is the same night. In the Honors Banquet, students are recognized for their excellence in academics. The honors requirement is A's for freshmen, top 5% of the class for sophomores, top 10% of the class for juniors, and top 15% of the class for seniors.

Prepare! For the college fair!

Sara Ann Smith

The college fair was held at AHS on Wednesday, March 10, 2010. Juniors got to attend it 7th and 8th hour and seniors only went 8th hour. The representatives from the colleges had tables set up in the commons and the gym. Iowa, Iowa State, and UNI also had half hour sessions in the little theatre. Students walked around and stopped at the tables with the colleges that they were interested in and the representatives gave them information to help with their college search.

Some of the colleges in the gym were Kirkwood, Hawkeye, Iowa National Guard, and Drake

University. In the commons some of the colleges were McNally Smith College of Music, TSPA, Wartburg, and Mount Mercy. There were many colleges ranging from medical and technical to hair and massage.

This day was very helpful to the students of AHS and BGHS for learning about colleges and finding out about schools they haven't heard about. Alynna Freeburg said she liked getting out of class. Adam Riemers says he enjoyed collecting the pens.

And we're off

Allison Kajewski

On March 13, Ms. Lahndorf and 19 AHS students will travel to Sibley, Iowa, to compete in Individual State Speech. There are seven individuals who will be taking two pieces, making a total of 26 entries for AHS.

In order to make State, you have to participate in Districts and receive a Division I or II rating to continue on. David Baxter, Veronica Arndorfer, Karina Haas, Tommy Christian, Clint McGuire, Mikayla Torpy, and Breanna Johnson are all taking two pieces. AHS has someone representing every category down at State.

Some of the categories in speech are: acting, story telling,

improv, poetry, prose, solo musical theater, expository, spontaneous speaking, and public address. Ms. Lahndorf said, "Every student has the possibility to do amazing performances."

If the kids do well at State, they then go on to All-State. So when you see the kids in the hallway, make sure to wish them good luck on Saturday!

A first-time State

Natalie Hackbarth

The Algona girls' basketball team became the first girls' basketball team in Algona history to qualify for the State Tournament. The girls not only qualified but also made it to the semi-finals.

On Tuesday, March 2nd, the team took on the Storm Lake Tornadoes for their quarterfinal match-up. The Bulldogs came out victorious with a final score of 57-49. This win advanced them to the semifinal where they fell to the Waukon Warriors 53-46 on Thursday, March 4th.

The week was filled with more than just

basketball, as the girls were able to stay in Des Moines for the entire week. When they weren't competing or practicing, the girls had the opportunity to watch other games, spend time at the mall, and relax at the hotel. The week was topped off with an all expenses-paid trip to Hu-Hot, a Mongolian grill, Friday night, followed by the "Parade of Champions" during the halftime of the 2A State championship. The "Parade of Champions" showcased every team not competing in the championship game of their class.

The once in a lifetime

AHS girls make history

Jeni Zeller

With a convincing 65-46 win over Crestwood in the regional final, the Algona girls' basketball team advanced to the State tournament for the first time in school history. Katelyn Seely said, "I'm so excited to play in the State tournament my senior year."

On Tuesday, March 2nd, the Algona Bulldogs played the Storm Lake Tornadoes in the quarterfinal round at the Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines. The Bulldogs came in with a record of 24-0, while the

Tornadoes had a record of 20-2. The Algona girls came away with the victory, pulling away in the fourth quarter to win 57-49. Laura TerHark led the Bulldogs with 16 points and 6 rebounds. Kirsten Lipps and Natalie Hackbarth each had 13 points, and Kirsten had 7 rebounds. The Bulldogs had 12 steals, including Kirsten Lipps with 5 and Emillie Kenne with 4. Katelyn Seely had four blocks in the game. The Bulldogs trailed at halftime 27-25 but came out of the locker room ready

trip ended on Saturday, March 6th. The team woke up early and attended a formal Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union brunch. At the brunch, the girls were drawn from a lottery to sing their school song in front of the entire brunch. They represented Algona High well. They finished off the rest of the day by shopping and attending the 3A State championship game before heading back home to Algona.

It was a big week for the Lady Bulldogs. They proudly became the first girls' team from AHS to make it to the State Tournament in

basketball. They are also the first team to make it to State basketball and volleyball in the same year. "It's an amazing feeling being a part of a basketball team that has made history," said Molly Cook.

Kirsten Lipps was awarded a spot on the 3A All-Tournament team and Emillie Kenne received a \$1,000 academic scholarship from the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union. Congratulations to the team on a fantastic season.

SWING into action

Nolyn Elliott

The snow is starting to melt and the boys' and girls' golf teams are getting anxious to get on the course.

The boys' golf team, coached by Mike Ford, starts their season on March 22. Returning letter winners for

the boys are Brad Hoskins, Alex Hagg, Blair Bradley, Zach Plathe, and Chris Grether. The boys' first meet is on April 13 at home, at the Algona Country Club. Zach Plathe says, "I'm looking forward to going to State."

The girls' golf team, coached by Dawn Bjuström, starts on March 15. Returning letter winners are Heidi Behnkendorf, Whitney Harms, AnnaLise Manske, Melinda Schultze, and Catherine Edgerton. The

girls' first meet is on April 13 in Estherville. Megan Simonson says, "Hopefully the snow melts so we can actually get on the course."

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Tim Tebow ready for the NFL?

Triston Dacken

Tim Tebow, the senior quarterback from Florida, did not throw at the NFL combine on Sunday, February 25, but he definitely made a statement.

Tim Tebow elected not to throw on Sunday, not because of injury like Sam Bradford or Jimmy Clausen, but because he did not feel he was familiar enough with his new throwing style yet to do so. He did participate in the 40-yard dash (4.72 seconds), the vertical jump (38.5"), the broad jump (9'7"), the 3-cone drill (6.66 seconds), the 20-yard shuttle (4.17 seconds), and the 60-yard shuttle (11.27 seconds). The vertical jump was the

highest of any quarterback in the draft, as was his 3-cone drill, 20-yard shuttle, and 60-yard shuttle.

He is changing his throwing style because when he was in college, he got away with a sluggish throwing style, not getting the ball out of his hands and on the way quickly enough. Because of this, he struggled in the Senior Bowl, his longest pass being for 11 yards. He has worked with some NFL coaches and trainers and other assorted mentors and is working on keeping the ball higher up by his shoulder when he throws, rather than bringing it down past his hip in the throwing

motion. He supports his old Florida coach in his coaching style, because many critics have scrutinized how Tebow was allowed to keep throwing like he did, instead of being corrected and better prepared for the NFL. He says that attempts were made to fix it, but as soon as he got back to game speed, he reverted to his natural motion.

Experts at the NFL website have said the ideal team for Tim Tebow would be one that had a coach with a lot of say in what happens in the draft and has a stable offense that needs a quarterback who can move the ball. Or a team that

needs a young project to work on until their starter is gone. Tebow says he will be happy with whomever takes him, saying, "It only takes one team." Adam Reimers says, "Tebow isn't ready to be a quarterback in the NFL. If anything, he will be tight end." Meanwhile, Travis Stone says, "Heck yes he's ready. He's gonna rock it up if the right team gets him."

So after a controversial Senior Bowl game and NFL combine, Tim Tebow's draft time approaches. Is he ready? Who knows?

Another devastating earthquake

Audrey Schuttler

A tragedy in the South American country of Chile occurred Saturday, February 27th. The earthquake struck the country in the early morning hours. The earthquake mainly hit the southern parts of the country along with the central part. The earthquake was of a magnitude of 8.8.

On Monday, March 1st, rescuers searched for survivors and looked to serve food and water. More than 1.5 million people

were without power around Santiago. As a result of the earthquake, a sewer system collapsed and water towers were nearly falling over. Of the 723 total deaths, the city of Maule believes to have 544 of those. In the city of Bio Bio, there were 64 deaths. Many towns were without safe drinking water, electricity, or gas.

The earthquake that hit South America is the fifth strongest earthquake to hit in 100 years.

2010 Winter Olympics

Jenn Steven

The Winter Olympics this year ended Sunday, February 28th. It had a good viewing population, with over 3 billion viewers world wide. The U.S. this year won 37 medals, setting the record for the Winter Olympics. Many of the participants either reached their goal or surpassed their own expectations. With the help of Bode Miller, Shaun White, Lindsey Vonn, and many other athletes, it is not surprising that the U.S. did very well this year. Germany also did very well, earning 30 medals, including 10 golds.

Canada had an amazing turnout, earning 26 medals with 14 of them being golds. The final

men's hockey game between U.S. and Canada was very exciting. Sydney Crosby scored the winning goal for Canada in overtime, 7 minutes and 40 seconds into it. This was a very exciting win for the Canadians.

The closing ceremonies included some of Canada's biggest stars including Neil Young, Michael J. Fox, and William Shatner. It was a lot of fun for everyone and, with the Olympics being in Vancouver, it was able to showcase the city at its finest. Travis Stone says, "They were very exciting to watch and were very good this year."

School News

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College planning for juniors

Travis Stone

Algona High School hosted a meeting for all juniors and their parents on Monday, March 8th, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in the Algona High School commons. This meeting talked about the following topics: academic planning,

college preparation, college selection, campus visits, transition to college, scholarship scams, and financial aid overview. This meeting was about 60 minutes long.

A much better start!

Tessa Thompson

The junior class is working hard to raise money for prom. Friday, the 26th of February, the juniors held an Italian Dinner Theater to raise money for after prom. During the dinner, the varsity speech members performed for entertainment.

The spaghetti night turnout was great! For only a \$10 ticket, the junior class raised a total of \$1,200. All of the money is going towards after prom. Even though the junior class had a slow start, they have really kicked it into gear.

The dinner was served at 6 PM and the entertainment started out with some of the varsity speech members performing

Choral Reading at 6:30 PM. The speech team also performed Ensemble Acting, Improvisation, and Musical Theatre. The night ended at 8:30 with a performance of the One Act play.

The night was entertaining and successful. "I liked it a lot," says Grayson McElroy. Almost all the tables were filled.

The junior class also held a can drive. The can drive helped the juniors raise money for prom decorations. They raised around \$1,800 from people who were willing to donate their cans.

Finally, getting it together, the junior class is doing well! Keep it up!



Auto class competes

Cody King

The AHS Automotive class is participating in the Ford AAA competition. Wendell Ziemet, Cody Armstrong, and Brady Otis are the people representing AHS. They are currently awaiting results to see if they passed their exams and can move on to a higher level of competition.

They are also preparing to go to the Skills USA competition. Both of these events challenge the

person's knowledge of all that is automotive. They must complete 110 questions and work at 11 workstations. You are limited to 15 minutes at each workstation, and each station is assigned a various auto task, such as the brake system or safety. They do this at the Iowa Lakes Community College. Travis Stone says, "They're gonna win."

Saint Patrick

Lynn Espinosa

There are many legends that surround Saint Patrick. He was said to have spent six years in Ireland as a slave, until he escaped and taught religion abroad. It is said that the reason that the three leaf clover is used as a symbol of Saint Patrick's Day is due to him using the leaves of the clover to explain the holy trinity, "Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit," to the pre-Christians to help convert them to Christianity.

It is said that March 17th is the day that Saint Patrick died. His death was celebrated in Ireland, where he is the patron Saint of the country.

March 17th is celebrated everywhere. You don't even have to be Irish anymore to join in on the fun. All you have to do is wear green and have fun.

In Ireland, the first festival was a three-day event, but it soon turned in to a four-day festival, and eventually it became a five-

day long festival. It attracted 675,000 people to the 2009 parade.

Outside of Ireland, the longest running St. Patrick's Day parade is in Montreal, Canada. The parade has been held since 1824. However, Saint Patrick's Day has been celebrated since about 1759 by soldiers from Ireland that were following the British Conquest of New France. The first parade to be held in New York was in 1762 by Irish soldiers in the British Army.

The custom today is to wear green. Those who aren't get pinched. Different cities do different things in celebration of this day. Chicago dyes its river green and has since 1961, and Seattle and other cities paint the traffic lines on the roads of their parade route green.

The way that Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated has changed slightly but is still going strong all around the world.

Make a very important date with Alice

Molly Cook

Nineteen-year old Alice Kingsleigh, Mia Wasikowska, is an imaginative girl feeling trapped in a world of proper etiquette. Following a rabbit in a waistcoat, Alice finds herself falling down a strange hole near a tree trunk. Upon her arrival to Underworld, Alice reunites with her old friends, and she learns of her true destiny, to end the reign of the evil Red

Queen. With help from the Mad Hatter, Johnny Depp; the Dormouse, Barbara Windsor; the Tweedles, Matt Lucas; and the Cheshire Cat, Stephen Fry, Alice goes on a journey to find the vortal sword and defeat the Red Queen's "champion," the Japperwocky. Anne Hathaway also stars in this movie as the Red Queen's sister, the White Queen. From the second Alice enters this

magical world, adventure and fantasy surround her.

This fantasy adventure film, *Alice in Wonderland*, is skillfully directed by Tim Burton. Tim Burton's version of *Alice in Wonderland* is not the same as the original 1951 version. Instead it is a follow up to the original film. This film is rated PG for fantasy action/violence involving scary images and situations, and

for a smoking caterpillar. This film can be experienced in either 3D or 2D and lasts 108 minutes. *Alice in Wonderland* is in theaters now and is a must see for people who enjoy fantasy, adventure, and stunning visuals.

Hollywood gossip

Alynnia Freeburg

American Idol judge, Simon Cowell, is proudly in love with his girlfriend, Mezhgan Hussainy. Mezhgan has been sporting a huge diamond ring, but it is still a question whether or not the two are engaged. Neither of them will confirm if a proposal has taken place. Hussainy is a make-up artist for many celebrities and has been a part of *American Idol* for years. Her and Simon began dating in 2009 and seem to be extremely serious, even talking about marriage and children. In an interview Simon said, "You just know when you've found somebody special and

I feel very, very happy."

According to reporters, Michael Jackson's kids are now being raised in a "chaotic environment devoid of discipline and parental supervision." Prince, Paris, and Blanket have been living at the Jackson home with Michael's mother, as instructed in his will, where more than a dozen other family members live as well. The problem is that the other children living in the house are out of control. Jermaine's, Michael's brother, son Jafaar got his hands on a stun gun and was trying to taser Blanket. An inside source said, "This is not something

that Michael's children are used to. They were brought up in a loving home. They're not used to experiencing this kind of violence." Questions have been raised about his children being placed with other guardians, but it's not that simple. Michael was very careful about who his children would be exposed to, so it seems that they will be staying in the chaotic Jackson home for now.

On March 3 the Ikki twins from the reality show *A Double Shot at Love* were in a car accident near Bakersfield, California, leaving Erica, also known as Rikki, in a medically-induced coma.

The twins were passengers in a Volkswagen Jetta that hit a tire in the road and was then rear-ended by a truck when the driver attempted to pull over. They both felt fine after the accident, but Rikki had a bump on her head so they went to the hospital anyway. The doctors did a test, verifying that she had bleeding in her skull. The doctors said they will keep her down until Friday and then take it from there, but luckily no one else was seriously injured.

Pocahontas

Cody Fortune

Q'orianka Kilcher starred in *The New World*, which was a Pocahontas remake in 2005. The movie received 6.9 out of 10 stars. Other stars in this movie included Colin Farrell and Christian Bale.

Q'orianka Kilcher was at AHS Friday, February

26th, to talk about her upcoming movie, *Algona*. The movie is about the POW camps around the Algona area. Kilcher talked to the AHS student body in the gym. She talked about her life, how she got into the business, and about setting goals and working towards

them. She told about how she loved to sing as a child and how she was chosen to be Pocahontas. She even had Algona trivia questions with autographed posters as prizes.

While at AHS, Kilcher sat in on Mrs. Cassens' Cinema class and

Mr. Nelson's classes to talk with students about being an actress and the entertainment business. She was available in the little theatre during 4th and 5th periods to talk to any students who wanted to learn more.